

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM GOVERNOR JOHN D. CHERRY, JR. LT. GOVERNOR

July 18, 2006

The President The White House Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the Senate is debating H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005, this week. The House has passed this legislation with a solid bipartisan vote and it is likely that it will also be supported by a bipartisan majority in the Senate. However, I am writing to express concern regarding your veto threat of this legislation and to urge you to reconsider your decision, as this legislation could lead to life-saving cures.

As you know, millions of families, Nobel laureates, university leaders and scientists all have expressed support for this legislation because they recognize that expanding federally funded stem cell research holds the promise to cure many serious diseases, including Parkinson's, juvenile diabetes and Alzheimer's. You have already allowed federally funded research to occur on a limited number of stem cell lines, but if our nation is serious about improving both the cost and quality of health care, we must tap the full power of modern science to combat lifethreatening illnesses in an ethically responsible manner. The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act enables our nation's researchers to do just that.

Talented researchers and businesses around the world are working right now on cures to these horrible diseases through the promise stem cell research holds. These cures could have an enormous impact on the lives of Michiganians who live with these illnesses and could ease the pain felt by their families.

Although we cannot recruit stem cell researchers to Michigan because of limits Michigan law places on them, I have asked the Michigan legislature to remove these obstacles to attract new businesses and researchers to the Great Lakes State, while allowing millions of additional federal research dollars to flow here.

I urge you to reconsider your views on this legislation and sign the bill into law if it is sent to your desk. I appreciate your consideration of my request.

Sincerely

Jennifer M. Granholm

Governor